

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CU-04 COME-00 EB-11 H-02 TRSE-00 IO-12

AID-20 CIAE-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 /110 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, BTRA, SCIL, NU

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC MISSION

1. BEFORE GIVING BRIEF SUMMARY OF HIGH POINTS VISIT OF NICARAGUAN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE ECONOMIC RECOVERY MISSION, DEPARTMENT WISHES TO COMPLIMENT COUNTRY TEAM ON ORIGINAL CONCEPTION THIS VISIT WHICH BROUGHT HIGH CALIBER NON- GOVERNMENTAL NICARAGUAN LEADERS TO THE U. S. WE BELIEVE THAT IF A MAJOR GOAL OF CU LEADER GRANT PROGRAMS IS TO REACH THOSE PERSONS IN A POTENTIAL LEADERSHIP CAPACITY, THEN THIS VISIT HAS BEEN EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL.

2. WASHINGTON MARCH 11-13 AND 18-23: ALL APPOINTMENTS THAT WERE REQUESTED WERE ARRANGED. GROUP APPEARED FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH TWO DAYS OF WORKING SESSIONS AT COMMERCE INCLUDING WELCOME BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOX. BRIEF PROTOCOL VISITS WERE MADE WITH SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON (WISCONSIN) AND SENATOR LAWTON CHILES (FLORIDA). GROUP LEADERS ALSO MET AT MORE LENGTH WITH CONGRESSMEN
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JOHN MURPHY (NY) AND DANTE FASCELL (FLORIDA) AS WELL AS SENATOR MARK HATFIELD (OREGON). HATFIELD EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN NICARAGUAN PROBLEMS WHILE FASCELL ENCOURAGED NICARAGUANS TO KEEP HIM INFORMED IN A TIMELY MANNER ON MATTERS SUCH AS AGRICULTURAL EXPORT QUOTA REQUESTS. THE GROUP ALSO MET WITH MAURICE WILLIAMS, GALO PLAZA (OAS), ORTIZ MENA (BID), AND EDGAR GUTIERREZ (WORLD BANK) AND

CARLOS SANSON (IMF).

3. NEW YORK MARCH 13-16: A ROUND- TABLE EXCHANGE WAS ARRANGED WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF LEADING BANKING, CONSTRUCTION, INSURANCE, AND INDUSTRIAL EXPORTING FIRMS AT THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS. THE CENTER FOR INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS HOSTED A WORKING LUNCH WITH BANKING EXECUTIVES. NICARAGUAN UN ALTERNATE AMBASSADOR LANG ARRANGED MEETINGS WITH INTERESTED UNITED NATIONS EXPERTS.

4. MADISON, WISCONSIN MARCH 16-18: THIS PORTION OF VISIT WENT EXTREMELY WELL WITH A FULL PROGRAM INCLUDING PRESS CONFERENCE AND TELEVISION COVERAGE. WISCONSIN PARTNERS OUTDID THEMSELVES, AS THEY HAVE ALL ALONG. A MORNING MEETING WITH LEADING WISCONSIN PARTNERS IN BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN PRODUCED IDEAS HELPFUL TO BOTH PARTIES. PROF. WILLIAM STRANG, TREASURER OF THE WISCONSIN PARTNERS, DISCUSSED FUNDRAISING (\$197,000 COLLECTED) AND THE EMERGENCY RELIEF SENT AND TO BE SENT, SUCH AS FOR EXAMPLE HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT, FOOD, FIRE ENGINES, SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY SUPPORT WAS DISCUSSED WITH PAUL HASSETT, OF WISCONSIN MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION AND DAVID HOEVLER OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS TALKED OF LONG RANGE PLANS FOR USING THE UNIVERSITY' S FACILITIES IN RECONSTRUCTION.

5. GROUP LEADERS ROBELO AND LACAYO CANCELLED OUT OF A PROGRAMMED TRIP TO PIRATE' S SPRING TRAINING CAMP. THIS WAS PERHAPS ONLY REAL DISAPPOINTMENT OF TRIP AND WE UNDERSTAND IT WAS CAUSED BY A RUMORED DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE ROBERTO CLEMENTE MEMORIAL FUND AS TO WHETHER FUNDS SHOULD BE USED FOR NICARAGUA OR PUERTO RICO. THIS REPORTED DISAGREEMENT WAS A MISUNDERSTANDING AS FUND IS TO BE USED
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BOTH PLACES, BUT GROUP FELT IT BEST NOT TO GET INVOLVED

IN WHAT SEEMED TO BE AN INTERNAL DISPUTE. REPORTEDLY, GROUP WILL RECOMMEND A BASEBALL REPRESENTATIVE FROM MANAGUA VISIT THE PIRATES AND THE FUND.

6. PRIOR DEPARTURE FROM US NEXT WEEK, AND AFTER TALKING WITH MAJOR US CONSTRUCTION FIRMS, CITY PLANNERS, SYSTEMS AND MANAGEMENT ENGINEERS OVER TECHNIQUES APPLICABLE TO MANAGUA RECONSTRUCTION, CHAMBER OF CONSTRUCTION MEMBERS ARGUELLO AND PEREIRA WILL CONTACT COMMERCE DEPARTMENT REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTENT OF US TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD IN MANAGUA.

7. COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE RECEIVING FIRST HAND REPORTS FROM PARTICIPANTS. IN SPITE OF SOME MINOR

DIFFICULTIES IN SCHEDULING, WE BELIEVE TRIP TO HAVE BEEN AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS. OF PARTICULAR NOTE WAS OBVIOUS IMPRESSION ON THE GROUP OF THE ACTIVE AND STRONG INVOLVEMENT OF THE WISCONSIN PARTNERS. ADDITIONALLY, WE WOULD UNDERLINE OUR OBSERVATION HERE THAT MANY OF THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM THE GROUP MET WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED AND INTERESTED IN NICARAGUA. WHILE GROUP NOT ABLE TO RESPOND TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT PLANS FOR MANAGUA RECONSTRUCTION AND THEIR OWN ROLE IN THAT EFFORT, WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY'S ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT THAT THIS TRIP WAS BETTER HELD NOW THAN LATER, AND BELIEVE IT HAS HELPED EDUCATE AND EQUIP PRIVATE SECTOR TO COLLABORATE IN RECOVERY EFFORTS AND PLANS AS DRAWN UP IN MANAGUA AND PLAY DYNAMIC, POSITIVE ROLE. ROGERS

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